

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 04624 062334Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /070 W  
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R 061713Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9777  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 04624

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, BE  
SUBJECT: BRUSSELS AND FLEMISH COMMUNITY PARTIES JOIN SOCIAL  
CHRISTIANS AND SOCIALISTS IN NEGOTIATIONS TO FORM  
NEW GOVERNMENT

REF: BRUSSELS 4251

SUMMARY: REGIONAL PARTIES, VOLKSUNIE AND FRANCOPHONE  
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DEMOCRATIC FRONT, ACCEPT TINDEMANS OFFER TO ATTEMPT TO  
NEGOTIATE A FOUR-PARTY COALITION WITH THE CHRISTIAN AND  
SOCIALIST PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO FORM A THREE PARTY  
COALITION OF SOCIAL CHRISTIANS, SOCIALISTS AND  
LIBERALS (REFTEL, PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS THIS WEEK

INVITED THE VRUSSELS COMMUNITY PARTY (FDF) AND THE FLEMISH VOLKSUNIE (VU) TO JOIN THE SOCIALISTS AND HIS OWN SOCIAL CHRISTIANS IN NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TO THE FORMATION OF A 4-PARTY COALITION GOVERNMENT.

2. THE SOCIAL-CHRISTIAN-SOCIALIST INVITATION TO FDF AND VU WAS MADE CONDITIONAL ON THE COMMUNITY PARTIES' READINESS TO NEGOTIATE A PRELIMINARY ACCORD ON THE THORNIER ASPECTS OF THE REGIONALIZATION PROBLEM - NOTABLY THE LIMITS OF BRUSSELS. A FURTHER CONDITION WAS THAT THE FDF AND THE VU WOULD ENTER THE GOVERNMENT TOGETHER OR NOT AT ALL. THE FDF HAVING ALREADY INDICATED ITS READINESS, THE DECISION LAY WITH THE VU WHICH, ON MAY 6, FINALLY AGREED TO NEGOTIATE. REAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS OF AN OUTLINE PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT DEVELOPED BY TINDEMANS WILL GET UNDERWAY MAY 9.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY WHICH THEY WILL COMMAND IN THE HOUSE, THE SENIOR PARTNERS (CVP/PSC - PSB/BSP) IN THE PROPOSED COALITION FIND THEMSELVES UNDER PRESSURE TO FACE UP TO THE COMMUNITIES PROBLEM. BUT NEITHER PARTY - THE CVP IN FLANDERS, NOR THE PSB IN WALLONIA - IS EAGER TO TAKE ON ITSELF THE POLITICAL HEAT LIKELY TO DEVELOP FROM THE CONCESSIONS NECESSARY TO A SOLUTION ON REGIONALIZATION. BOTH PARTIES - AND PARTICULARLY THE SOCIALISTS WHO LOST HEAVILY TO THE FDF ON THIS ISSUE IN BRUSSELS - WOULD PREFER TO SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY WITH THEIR REGIONAL ADVERSARIES.

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THAT THE FOUR HAVE AGREED TO NEGOTIATE DOES NOT, OF COURSE, ASSURE SUCCESS. IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN 1974 TINDEMANS MANAGED ONLY TO BRING IN THE RASSEMBLEMENT WALLON (RW). THE UPCOMING QUADRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS COULD WELL BE ONLY A STAGE IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING A SOCIAL CHRISTIAN-SOCIALIST MANAGE A DEUX TO GOVERN BELGIUM. RENNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009